Housing Struggles, City Making, and Citizenship in Urban Chile

Housing is a fundamental human right, but for many people around the world, access to adequate housing is a constant struggle. In Chile, housing struggles have a long history, dating back to the country's rapid urbanization in the 19th century. Today, housing remains a major challenge for many Chileans, with over 600,000 families living in informal settlements known as *campamentos*.



The Right to Dignity: Housing Struggles, City Making, and Citizenship in Urban Chile by Miguel Pérez

★★★★★ 4.4 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 14177 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 233 pages



Housing struggles are not simply about access to shelter, however. They are also about the right to the city and the ability to participate in the decisions that shape our cities. In Chile, housing activists and residents are using housing struggles to challenge existing power structures and create more just and equitable cities.

Housing Struggles and the Right to the City

The right to the city is the right to inhabit, use, and enjoy the city in a just and sustainable way. It includes the right to housing, but also the right to public space, to participate in decision-making, and to shape the city's future. Housing struggles are often seen as a threat to the right to the city, as they can lead to displacement and gentrification. However, housing activists argue that housing struggles are essential for realizing the right to the city.

In Santiago, Chile, housing activists have been fighting for the right to the city for decades. In the 1970s and 1980s, they played a key role in the struggle against the Pinochet dictatorship. After the fall of the dictatorship, they continued to fight for housing rights, and they played a major role in the development of Chile's new housing policies.

Today, housing activists in Santiago are working to build a more just and equitable city. They are fighting for affordable housing, for the right to participate in decision-making, and for the right to the city for all.

City Making and Citizenship

Housing struggles are not only about housing. They are also about city making and citizenship. In Chile, housing struggles have played a major role in shaping the city's development. Housing activists have fought for the right to the city, and they have helped to create more just and equitable cities.

Housing struggles have also played a major role in shaping Chilean citizenship. In the 1970s and 1980s, housing activists were part of a broader movement for social justice. They fought for the right to housing, but they also fought for the right to vote, the right to education, and the right

to health care. Their struggle helped to create a more democratic and inclusive Chile.

Today, housing activists in Chile continue to fight for a more just and equitable city. They are fighting for affordable housing, for the right to participate in decision-making, and for the right to the city for all. Their struggle is part of a broader movement for social justice in Chile, and it is helping to create a more democratic and inclusive society.

Housing struggles are a major challenge in Chile, but they are also an opportunity to create more just and equitable cities. Housing activists in Chile are using housing struggles to fight for the right to the city and to create a better future for all.



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